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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

September 5, 2018

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

Attention: Michael Constantino

525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor

Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Silver Cross Cardiac Surgery CON (Project #18-020)

Dear Mr. Constantino,

There has been much discussion of recent swirling around my favorite topic of all; adult open heart surgery. Despite rumors of its demise, heart surgery continues to be a very important treatment option for patients with heart disease. I have been living and dealing with this daily for over thirty years.

I do not plan to express an opinion one way or the other regarding the Silver Cross application for CON for heart surgery. There are plenty of smart people involved with rules and regulations abounding to make this call. A proper decision will be made.

However, as these discussions occur, I would like to cite a few relevant facts. Open heart surgery has been ,and will continue to be, available in this southwest region for over 27 years. Dr Altergott and I performed the first open heart surgery at St Joseph medical center on July 1, 1991 on our patient George D. Since then, over 9,200 patients have undergone open heart surgery at St Joseph's, with results that exceed national benchmarks and with patient satisfaction for open heart surgery alone which also exceeds national benchmarks. All manner of open heart

surgeries, short of heart transplant, have occurred with high rates of success. Our group provides heart transplantation services at Loyola. Likely, over a thousand people from Silver Cross have been among those thousands treated. In heart surgery, it is not just the patient treated but the whole family really.

Dr. Altergott and I and our whole group of 30 heart surgeons were warmly accepted by this community as we committed ourselves to their care. 24/7 coverage and even backup coverage has been in place continually since that remote July day.

Generally, it takes more than 60 minutes to ready an open heart room, team, and surgeon. We have received many patients directly from Silver Cross going straight to a waiting open heart room and surgeon at St Joseph's in under 60 minutes. Other area facilities also with capacity have received Silver Cross patients and treated them successfully over the years; Christ Medical Center, Palos Community Hospital, Edward Hospital, Olympia Fields Hospital, Hinsdale Lagrange Hospitals, and Loyola to name a few.

We have willingly and openly accepted all manner of patients from Silver Cross; old, young, rich, poor, insured, *uninsured*. We have welcomed all who came as I am certain that other surrounding facilities in the area have also done.

Meeting and treating the patients and their families of this region during a time of great medical concern has been a true blessing for me and my fellow surgeons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Foy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bryan Foy, MD

Cardiac Surgeon

Cardiac Surgery Associates, SC